AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication system ~~for authenticating a device one or more devices on a home network connectable to an external network via a router~~, ~~characterized by~~ the system comprising:

means for holding a ~~MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said router set as a~~ default gateway; and

local environment management means for ~~confirming whether or not another device requesting for accessing to said device on said home network is present on said home network based on whether or not a MAC address of said request source device of accessing is identified or non-identified with a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway~~ determining when a home network of a first device and a home network of a second device are the same home network by comparing a source media access control address to the media access control address of the default gateway.

2. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that:~~

~~one of said devices~~ wherein the first device is a home server for legitimately acquiring content[[s]], ~~whereas the other of said devices~~ and the second device is a client for making a request for ~~said~~the content[[s]] to ~~said~~the home server ~~for use~~; and

wherein, in response to ~~confirmation of presence of both devices on~~ determining the devices are both on ~~said~~the same home network, ~~said~~the home server provides ~~said~~the content[[s]] ~~and/or~~ or issues a license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] to ~~said~~the client.

3. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein the first device is one of two or more home servers ~~are able to be~~ installed on ~~said~~ the home network of the first device;

wherein the second device is a client; and

wherein ~~each~~ one or more of ~~said~~ the two or more home servers can provide ~~provides said~~ content[[s]] ~~and/or~~ or ~~issues~~ issue a license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] to ~~said clients that is confirmed to be present~~ the client when it is determined to be on ~~said~~the same home network.

4. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein ~~said~~the client is able to receive a provision of ~~said~~the content[[s]] ~~and/or~~ or issuance of ~~said~~the license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] from one or more of ~~said~~the two or more home servers on ~~said~~the same home network.

5. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein ~~said~~the client is able to use ~~said~~the content[[s]] acquired from ~~a plurality of~~ the two or more home servers on ~~said~~the same home network, and, upon connection to a home server on ~~an other~~a second home network, ~~said~~the client is not able to use ~~said~~the content[[s]] acquired from ~~said~~ the two or more home servers on ~~said~~ the same home network[[s]] ~~other than said other home network~~.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication system ~~for authenticating a device on a home network connectable to an external network via a router~~, ~~characterized by~~the system comprising:

~~means for sharing the same identification information regarding said home network between said devices on said same home network~~ storing identification information identifying a home network of a first device and a home network of a second device; and

means for ~~said local environment management means confirms whether or not each of said devices is present on said same home network based on whether or not each of said devices shares the same identification information regarding said home network~~ determining when the home network of the first device and the home network of the second device are the same home network by comparing the identification information identifying the home network of the first device to the identification information identifying the home network of the second device, wherein the home network of the first device and the home network of the second device are determined

to be the same home network when the comparison determines the information identifying the home network of the first device and the identification information indentifying the home network of the second device are the same.

8. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that:~~

~~each of said devices acquires~~ wherein the first device and the second device acquire a ~~MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said~~ a router set as a default gateway as the identification information ~~regarding~~ identifying ~~said~~the home network of the first device and the second device; and

whether or not ~~each of said devices is present on said same home network~~ the home network of the first device and the home network of second device are the same home network is ~~confirmed~~ determined based on whether or not ~~each of said devices has a~~ the first device and the second device have the same media access control ~~MAC~~ address of ~~said~~the ~~same~~ default gateway.

9. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

a local environment management apparatus located on the home network of the first device and the home network of the second device for supplying ~~network~~ the identification information ~~is installed on said home network~~; ~~and~~

~~each of said devices acquires~~ wherein the first device and second device acquire a ~~MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said~~the local environment management apparatus as identification information ~~regarding~~ identifying ~~said~~the home network; and

wherein whether or not ~~each of said devices is present on said same home network~~ the home network of the first device and the home network of second device are the same home network is ~~confirmed~~ determined based on whether or not ~~each of said devices has a~~ the first device and the second device have the same media access control ~~MAC~~ address of ~~said~~the ~~same~~ local environment management apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication method ~~for authenticating a device on a home network connectable to an external network via a router, characterized by~~ comprising:

~~a step of~~ holding a ~~MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said router set as~~ a default gateway; and

~~a local environment management step of confirming whether or not another device requesting for accessing to said device on said home network is present on said home network based on whether or not a MAC address of said request source device of accessing is identified or non-identified with a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway~~ determining when a home network of a first device and a home network of a second device are the same home network by comparing a source media access control address to the media access control address of the default gateway.

11. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein ~~one of said devices~~ the first device is a home server for legitimately acquiring content[[s]], ~~whereas the other of said devices~~ and the second device is a client for making a request for ~~said~~ content[[s]] to ~~said~~the home server for use; and

wherein, in response to ~~confirmation of presence of both devices on~~ determining the first device and the second de are on ~~said~~the same home network in ~~said~~the local environment management step, ~~said~~the home server provides ~~said~~the content[[s]] and/or issues a license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] to ~~said~~the client.

12. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein the first device is one of two or more home servers ~~are able to be~~ installed on ~~said~~ the home network of the first device;

wherein the second device is a client; and

wherein ~~each~~ one or more of ~~said~~ the two or more home servers can provide ~~provides said~~ content[[s]] ~~and/or issues~~ or issue a license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] to ~~said clients that is confirmed to be present~~ the client when it is determined to be on ~~said~~the same home network.

13. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein ~~said~~the client is able to receive a provision of ~~said~~the content[[s]] ~~and/or~~ or issuance of ~~said~~the license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] from ~~said~~the two or more home servers on ~~said~~the same home network.

14. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein ~~said~~the client is able to use ~~said~~the content[[s]] acquired from ~~a plurality of~~ the two or more home servers on ~~said~~the same home network, and, upon connection to a home server on ~~an other~~a second home network, ~~said~~the client is not able to use ~~said~~the content[[s]] acquired from the ~~said~~ two or more home servers on ~~said~~the home network[[s]] ~~other than said~~the ~~other home network~~.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication method ~~for authenticating a device on a home network connectable to an external network via a router~~, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

~~a step of sharing the same identification information regarding said home network between said devices on said same home network~~ storing identification information identifying a home network of a first device and a home network of a second device; and

~~in said local environment management step, whether or not each of said devices is present on said same home network is confirmed based on whether or not each of~~

~~said devices shares the same identification information regarding said home network~~ determining when the home network of the first device and the home network of the second device are the same home network by comparing the identification information identifying the home network of the first device to the identification information identifying the home network of the second device, wherein the home network of the first device and the home network of the second device are determined to be the same network when the comparison determines the information identifying the home network of the first device and the identification information indentifying the home network of the second device are the same.

17. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

~~in said local environment management step, each of said devices acquires~~ acquiring by the first device and the second device a ~~MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said~~ a router set as a default gateway as identification information regarding ~~said~~the home network of the first device and the second device; and

wherein whether or not ~~each of said devices is present on said same home network~~ the home network of the first device and the home network of second device are the same home network is ~~confirmed~~ determined based on whether or not ~~each of said devices has a~~ the first device and the second device have the same media access control ~~MAC~~ address of ~~said~~the ~~same~~ default gateway.

18. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

a local environment management apparatus is located on the home network of the first device and the home network of the second device for supplying ~~network~~ the identification information ~~is installed on said home network~~; and

~~in said logical management step, each of said devices acquires~~ the first device and the second device acquire a ~~MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said~~the local environment management apparatus as identification information regarding ~~said~~the home network; and

whether or not ~~each of said devices is present on said same home network~~ the home network of the first device and the home network of second device are the same home network is ~~confirmed~~ determined based on whether or not ~~each of said devices has a~~ the first device and the second device have the same media access control ~~MAC~~ address of ~~said~~the ~~same~~ local environment management apparatus.

19. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus ~~for operating on a home network connectable to an external network via a router~~, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

means for holding a ~~MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said router set as~~ a default gateway; and

local environment management means for ~~confirming whether or not another device requesting for accessing to said device on said home network is present on said home network based on whether or not a MAC address of said request source device of accessing is identified or non-identified with a MAC address of said router set as a~~

~~default gateway~~ determining when a home network of a device and a home network of the communication apparatus are the same home network by comparing a source media access control address to the media access control address of the default gateway.

20. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein ~~said~~the communication apparatus operates as a home server for providing content[[s]] on ~~said~~ the home network of the communication apparatus; and

wherein ~~said~~the communication apparatus further comprises content-provision means for providing ~~said~~ content[[s]] ~~and/or~~ or issuing a license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] only when the communication apparatus and the device are ~~to a device confirmed to be present~~determined to be on ~~said~~the same home network ~~by said local environment management means~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein ~~said~~the communication apparatus operates as a client for making a request for content[[s]] to a home server for use on ~~said~~ the home network of the communication apparatus;

wherein ~~said~~the communication apparatus further comprises content-using means for receiving a provision of ~~said~~ content[[s]] ~~and/or~~ or issuance of a license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] only when the device is the home server and ~~from a home server~~

~~confirmed to be present~~ determined to be on ~~said~~the same home network ~~by said local environment management means~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein two or more home servers are able to be installed on ~~said~~ the home network of the communication apparatus;

wherein ~~said~~the content-using means receives a provision of ~~said~~the content[[s]] ~~and/or~~ or issuance of a license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] only from the two or more home servers, ~~confirmed to be present~~determined to be on ~~said~~the ~~same~~ home network of the communication apparatus ~~by said local environment management means~~.

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23. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein ~~said~~the content-using means is able to use ~~said~~the content[[s]] acquired from a plurality of home servers on ~~said~~the ~~same~~ home network of the communication apparatus, and, upon connection to a home server on ~~an other~~a second home network, ~~said~~the client is not able to use ~~said~~the content[[s]] acquired from the ~~said~~the home servers on ~~said~~the home network of the communication apparatus ~~networks other than said other home network~~.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus ~~operating as a client for making request for content[[s]] to a home server for use, on a home network connectable to an external network via a router, characterized by~~ comprising:

means for ~~sharing the same identification information regarding said home network between devices on said same home network~~ storing identification information identifying a home network of the communication apparatus and a home network of a device; and

means for ~~said local environment management means confirms whether or not each of said devices is present on said same home network based on whether or not each of said devices shares the same identification information regarding said home network~~ determining when the home network of the communication apparatus and the home network of device are the same home network by comparing the identification information identifying the home network of the communication apparatus to the identification information identifying the home network of the device, wherein the home network of the communication apparatus and the home network of the device are determined to be the same network when the comparison determines the information identifying the home network of the communication apparatus and the identification information indentifying the home network of the device are the same.

26. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 25, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein ~~said~~the local environment management means acquires a ~~MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said~~a router set as a default gateway as identification

information ~~regarding~~ identifying ~~said~~the home network of the communication apparatus and the home network of the device; and

wherein whether or not ~~a~~ the device ~~on other side of communication~~ is ~~present~~ on ~~said~~the same home network is ~~confirmed~~ determined based on whether or not ~~said~~the device ~~on other side of communication has~~ and the communication apparatus acquire the same ~~a MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said~~the ~~same~~ default gateway.

27. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 25, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein a local environment management apparatus for supplying network identification information is installed ~~on said~~ the home network of the communication apparatus and the home network of the device; and

~~said~~the local environment management means acquires a ~~MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said~~the local environment management apparatus as identification information regarding ~~said~~the home network of the communication apparatus and the home network of the device; and

whether or not ~~a~~ the device ~~on other side of communication~~ is ~~present~~ on ~~said~~the same home network is ~~confirmed~~ determined based on whether or not ~~said~~the device ~~on other side of communication~~ and the communication apparatus acquire the same ~~has a MAC~~ media access control address of ~~said~~the ~~same~~ local environment management apparatus.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer program described in a computer readable format so as to execute a process~~ A computer-readable medium, storing a computer program for causing a processor to execute a method for ~~authenticating a first device, on a home network connectable to an external network via a router, on which a home server for legitimately acquiring contents from said external network and a client for making a request for said contents for use are present, said computer program characterized by~~ providing content to a first device on a home network, the method comprising:

~~a local environment management step of confirming whether or not said home server and said client are present on said home network based on whether or not a MAC address of said request source client of accessing is identified or non-identified with a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway~~ determining when the first device and a second device are both on the home network by comparing a source media access control address to a media access control address of a default gateway; and

providing ~~said contents and/or~~ content or issuing a license for ~~said~~the content[[s]] to ~~said client~~ the first device by ~~said home server~~ the second device if ~~in response to confirmation of presence of both said devices~~ the first device and the second device are on ~~said~~the ~~same~~ home network ~~in said local environment management step~~.